The Defence Secretaries level talks between Pakistan and India to discuss Siachen issue under the Composite Dialogue Framework were held in Islamabad on 26-27 May 2005. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the ceasefire currently in place since November 2003 and agreed to its continuation. The two Defence Secretaries agreed to continue with their discussions to resolve the Siachen Issue in a peaceful manner.

Indo-Pak discussion

402. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks were held in May and June last between the Governments of India and Pakistan to ease tension between the two countries on Siachen in Jammu and Kashmir and Sir Creek on the Gujarat-Pak Border; and

(b) if so, the out come thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The Defence Secretaries level talks between Pakistan and India to discuss Siachen Issue under the Composite Dialogue Framework were held in Islamabad on 26-27 May 2005. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the ceasefire currently in place since November 2003 and agreed to its continuation. The two Defence Secretaries agreed to continue with their discussions to resolve the Siachen Issue in a peaceful manner.

Talks on the Sir Creek issue under the Composite Dialogue Framework were held in Rawalpindi on 28-29 May 2005 to discuss the demarcation of International boundary between the two countries in the Sir Creek area. No outcome was reached. The two sides, however, agreed to continue their discussions aimed at an early resolution of the issue for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

Depiction of Hindu Gods on shoes

403. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that some of the countries, especially France and other European countries are printing

images of Hindu Gods on shoes, lingeries etc. and disrespecting Hinduism in various forms; and

(b) If so, what initiative has been taken through diplomatic and political channels to stop such abuse of Hinduism in other parts of the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) It has been reported recently that a French private company M/s Vivarte had depicted the images of Hindu Gods on its Mineli brand footwear.

(b) Our Mission in Paris had immediately taken up this issue with M/s Vivarte urging the company to withdraw the footwear from the market. Subsequently several reports have confirmed that the company had indeed withdrawn several containers of the said shoes from the market. The matter is being closely monitored by our Missions in the European countries. Our Missions abroad take corrective action, when any such instances come to their attention.

Countries without diplomatic relations

404. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries with which India does not have diplomatic relations;

(b) the countries with which India has extradition treaty and those with which the negotiations for the same are in progress; and

(c) the advantages and disadvantages of not having diplomatic relations and extradition treaty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) India has diplomatic relations with all the member countries of the United Nations.

(b) The details are given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) The advantages of having diplomatic relations are that the countries concerned can have interaction with each other in accordance with international law and diplomatic practice for cooperation in various fields. The bilateral agreements or treaties are signed if there are diplomatic relations with the countries concerned. The advantages of having